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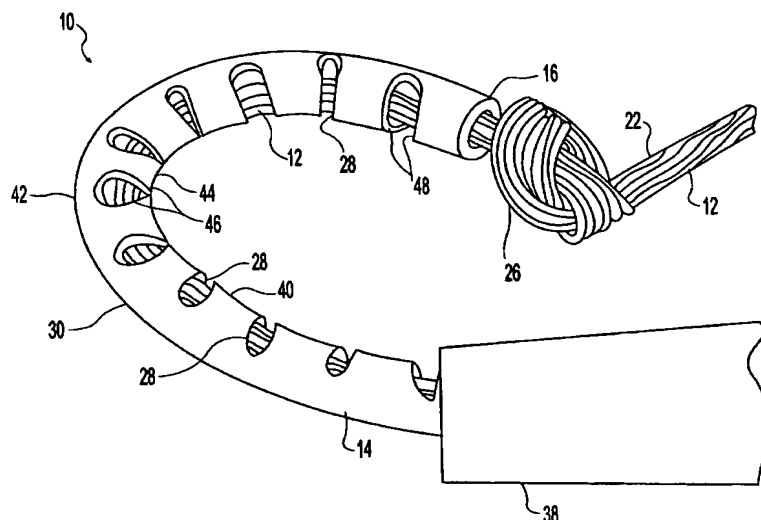
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(54) Title: ARTICULATED ELEMENTS AND METHODS FOR USE



(57) Abstract: The present invention (10) relates to a one-step fastening device, a process for creating utilizing such a device (10), and the end fastener produced thereby. In this regard, the invention (10) uses an outer, hollow fastener material (14) that can be partially compressed under tension at designated areas (28) (i.e., a compression member) (14) and an inner activation or tensioning member (12). The compression of the outer fastener material (145) occurs at one or more flexible areas (28) or compression features specifically located on the longitudinal axis of the material. As a result, the outer compression member (14) is capable of being distorted or bent under tension to produce a predetermined configuration. The device (10) described herein has the ability to form specific and controllable fasteners of designated shapes and configuration. Methods for fastening, snaring, cutting, and manipulating material using the device (10) in a confined space are also provided.

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US CL : 24/703.1, 703.2, 703.3, 712, 715.3; 606/108; 623/17.16

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B. FIELDS SEARCHED

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Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practicable, search terms used)
EAST

C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 4,577,631 A (KREAMER) 25 MARCH 1986; SEE THE ENTIRE DOCUMENT.	1-51
Y	US 4,589,410 A (MILLER) 20 MAY 1986; SEE THE ENTIRE DOCUMENT.	1-51
Y	US 5,816,458 A (YONENOI) 06 OCTOBER 1998; SEE THE ENTIRE DOCUMENT.	1-51
YP	US 6,513,210 A (GONZALEZ) 04 FEBRUARY 2003; SEE THE ENTIRE DOCUMENT.	1-51
Y	US 6,202,263 A (HARKER) 20 MARCH 2001; SEE THE ENTIRE DOCUMENT.	1-51
Y	US 4,993,128 A (GOLD) 19 FEBRUARY 1991; SEE THE ENTIRE DOCUMENT.	1-51
Y	US 4,860,408 A (JOHNSON) 29 AUGUST 1989; SEE THE ENTIRE DOCUMENT.	1-51
Y	US 4,754,531 A (SKYBA) 05 JULY 1988; SEE THE ENTIRE DOCUMENT.	1-51



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C. (Continuation) DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
Y	US 2,820,269 A (WOLFF) 21 JANUARY 1958; SEE THE ENTIRE DOCUMENT.	1-51
Y	US 5,259,377 A (SCHROEDER) 09 NOVEMBER 1993; SEE THE ENTIRE DOCUMENT.	1-51
Y	US 6,321,749 A (TOTI ET AL) 27 NOVEMBER 2001; SEE THE ENTIRE DOCUMENT.	1-51
Y	US 2,024,982 A (SCOTT) 17 DECEMBER 1935; SEE THE ENTIRE DOCUMENT.	1-51
Y	US 4,694,541 A (SKYBA) 22 SEPTEMBER 1987; SEE THE ENTIRE DOCUMENT.	1-51